

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on October 5, 2005 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner: (1) objected to the Abstract of the disclosure under MPEP § 608.01(b) because it exceeds 150 words in length; (2) rejected claims 24 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Isaak (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,060 B1); (3) rejected claims 23-24, 28-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warner et al. (cited as U.S. Pat. Publication No. US 2003/0168725 A1) in view of Isaak (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,060 B1); (4) rejected claims 3, 6, 8, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damberg (cited as U.S. Pat. No. 6,765,288 B2) in view of Isaak (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,060 B1); (5) objected to claims 4, 5, 7, 9-22 and 34-35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated their allowability if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; (6) attached a "Notice from Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review" indicating rejection of the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84; and (7) has indicated allowance of claims 1, 2, and 25-27.

(1) Objection to the Abstract Under MPEP § 608.01(b)

A replacement Abstract has been provided by Applicants.

(2) Rejection of Claims 24 and 28-30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Isaak (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,060 B1). Although the Applicants do not agree with the rejection of the Examiner on these claims, in order to move this particular case forward, the Applicants have currently amended claim 24 and claims 28-30.

The Applicants believe that the present amendment of claim 24 and claims 28-30 should be deemed to have overcome the rejection.

The Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the discussion below regarding what a "consolidated contact" is in the context of the present claims both as originally presented and as currently amended.

(3) Rejection of Claims 23-24, 28-29, and 31 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As noted above, claim 24 has been currently amended and Applicants believe that this amendment responds to and overcomes the standing 103 rejection as to that claim. As to claim 23, Applicants direct their remarks to the recited limitation "*selected one of the plural consolidated contacts having an inner flex portion and an outer flex portion delineated by the orifice * * **" (from claim 23) particularly as regards the Examiner's statement that such limitation is found in Warner (U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/281,550). With regard to this limitation, the Examiner has said that he finds the recited "inner flex portion" structure in Warner at "adjacent microelectronic package 101d".

Applicants refer the Examiner to Fig. 4 of the present application and accompanying text at paragraph 42 where a consolidated contact as recited in the claim 23 is depicted and described. Certainly, this is NOT a microelectronic package, nor could it be. It is a contact with two identified portions 61A (inner flex portion) and 61B (outer flex portion). This is clearly described and recited. Applicants believe that with the benefit of this explanation the Examiner will be able to see that claim 23 is indeed allowable over Warner in view of Isaak. Certainly no consolidated contact is found in either Warner or Isaak as should be clear from the above note.

Claims 28 and by their dependency from claim 28, claims 29-31 have been currently amended to include the limitation “consolidated contact”. The above discussion concerning the “consolidated contact” limitation although in the context of claim 23 should allow the Examiner to also note that now currently amended claims 28, 29 and 31 are allowable.

(4) Rejection of Claims 3, 6, 8, 32 and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

With respect to the rejection of claims 3, 6, 8, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damberg in view of Isaak, Applicants have cancelled claims 3, 6, 8, 32 and 33 from the present application and reserve the right to address this rejection in preliminary remarks in a continuation application.

(5) Objection to Claims 4, 5, 7, 9-22, and 34-35

The Office Action Summary for the Office Action states that claim 4, 5, 7, 9-22, and 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicants have rewritten these claims as new claims presented herein and here provides the Examiner information on correspondence of new claims with old claims as follows:

New claim 36 corresponds to original claims 3 and 4.

New claim 37 corresponds to original claims 3, 4, and 5.

New claim 38 corresponds to original claims 3 and 7.

New claim 39 corresponds to original claims 3 and 8 and Applicants note that they interpreted the Examiner's comments on allowability to indicate that claim 8 did not appear to contribute to patentability one way or the other.

New claim 40 corresponds to original claims 3 and 10.

New claim 41 corresponds to original claims 3 and 11.

New claim 42 corresponds to original claims 3, 10, and 12.

New claim 43 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, and 13.

New claim 44 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, 13, and 14.

New claim 45 corresponds to original claims 3 and 15.

New claim 46 corresponds to original claims 3, 15, and 16.

New claim 47 corresponds to original claims 3, 15, and 17.

New claim 48 corresponds to original claims 3, 15, 17 and 18.

New claim 49 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, and 19.

New claim 50 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, 19, and 20.

New claim 51 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, 19, and 21.

New claim 52 corresponds to original claims 3, 11, 19, and 22.

New claim 53 corresponds to original claims 32, 33, and 34.

New claim 54 corresponds to original claims 32, 33, 34, and 35.

(6) Rejection of the Drawings Under 37 CFR 1.84

Applicants have provided replacement drawing sheets.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the examination and particularly for his indication of allowability of the indicated claims. The Office Action contains a number of statements potentially reflecting characterizations of various claims, supporting descriptions, and/or patent or patent application references. Regardless of whether any such statements are addressed in this response, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

The Applicants believe the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same at the first convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this written request to treat this or any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The Commissioner is further authorized to charge all required fees, including without limitation excess claim fees or other fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or any required extension of time fees or other fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 50-3534, on which the undersigned is authorized to sign, and to treat such authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3534 as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this or any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for its timely submission. The Commissioner is further hereby authorized to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3534.

Respectfully submitted,

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